Amendments to the Claims

This list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of operating a computer network server in a network having a central node and wherein said network comprises at least one client authorized to access said computer network server via said central node, said method comprising:

accessing said central node;

obtaining the network addresses of said at least one client;

~~establishing~~ <u>initiating</u> a computer network connection with said at least one client;

receiving a request from said at least one client over said established connection; and

responding to said request.

Claim 2 (previously amended): The method of claim 1, whereby said network further comprises a network device, said network device selected from the set consisting of firewalls, proxy servers, and network translation devices.

Claim 3 (original): A method of operating a computer network server in a computer network having a central node wherein said network comprises at least one client authorized to access said server, wherein said server has a listening port, accessible during a predetermined time, comprising:

maintaining a connection with a central node;

receiving a command from said central node to open a listening port after said central node receives a request from said at least one client to access said server;

opening said listening port;

sending to said central node instructions for said client to connect to said server over said listening port; and

receiving communication from said client over said listening port after said central node delivers a command to said at least one client to connect to said server.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said predetermined time is less than one second.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said server closes said listening port after receipt of said communication.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said server establishes a network connection with said client after receipt of said communication.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said server closes said listening port if it receives communication from other than said at least one client.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said server maintains a persistent network connection to said central node.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said command is encrypted.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said instructions are encrypted.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 3, whereby said communication is encrypted.

Claim 12 (cancelled): A method of sharing data between a server and at least one client authorized to access said data resident on said server on a network using network connections, whereby all said network connections between said server and said at least one client are initiated by said server.

Claim 13 (cancelled): The method of claim 12, further comprising a central node, whereby said server requests from said central node a list of said at least one clients authorized to access data resident on said server.

4

Claim 14 (cancelled): The method of claim 13, whereby said request is encrypted.

Claim 15 (cancelled): The method of claim 13, whereby said server initiates a network connection to each of said at least one authorized clients.

Claim 16 (cancelled): The method of claim 15, whereby said at least one authorized client requests data from said server using said network connection previously initiated by said server.

Claim 17 (cancelled): A computer system, comprising a central node, a server and at least one authorized client, wherein said server is adapted to access said central node to obtain a list of said clients authorized to access data on said server.

Claim 18 (cancelled): The computer system of claim 17, wherein said server is adapted to establish a network connection to each said at least one authorized client.

Claim 19 (cancelled): The computer system of claim 18, wherein said server is adapted to receive a request over said established network connection from said at least one client and is adapted to respond to said request.

Claim 20 (original): A computer system, comprising a central node, a server and at least one authorized client, wherein said server is adapted to receive notification from said central node that said authorized client wishes to

communicate with said server and in response to said notification, is adapted to open a listening port for said authorized client to connect to and sends instructions to said central node to notify said authorized client to communicate to said listening port.

Claim 21 (original): The computer system of claim 20, wherein said server is adapted to close said listening port if a device other than said authorized client attempts to communicate to said listening port.

Claim 22 (original): The computer system of claim 20, wherein said server is adapted to establish a network connection with said authorized client after said authorized client communicates to said listening port.

Claim 23 (original): The computer system of claim 20, wherein said server is adapted close said listening port after receipt of said communication from said authorized client.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer program product for instructing a processor in a computer network server in a network having a central node and wherein said network comprises at least one client authorized to access said computer network server via said central node, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

first program instruction means for accessing said central node;

second program instruction means for obtaining the network addresses of said at least one client;

third program instruction means for ~~establishing~~ <u>initiating</u> a computer network connection with said at least one client;

fourth program instruction means for receiving a request from said at least one client over said established connection and responding to said request.

Claim 25 (original): A computer program product for instructing a processor of a computer network server in a computer network having a central node wherein said network comprises at least one client authorized to access said server, wherein said server has a listening port, accessible during a predetermined time, said computer program comprising:

a computer readable medium;

first program instruction means for maintaining a connection with a central node;

second program instruction means for receiving a command from said central node to open a listening port after said central node receives a request from said at least one client to access said server;

third program instruction means for opening said listening port;

fourth program instruction means for sending to said central node instructions for said client to connect to said server over said listening port; and

fifth program instruction means for receiving communication from said client over said listening port after said central node delivers a command to said at least one client to connect to said server.